

Town of Lunenburg

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
P.O. Box 135
Lunenburg, MA 01462-0135



Jeffrey Mendoza, Chairman/Clerk
Garrett Stillman, Vice-Chairman
Douglas MacMillan, Member
Renee Trakimas, Member

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION **May 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Posted: Yes
Place: The Ritter Building
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Present: G. Stillman, J. Mendoza, D. MacMillan, R. Trakimas.

Minutes Approval: Motion to approve by D. MacMillan. Second by G. Stillman. April 17, 2014 and May 2, 2014 Minutes approved.

The Chairman issued a statement addressing the fact that The Agricultural Commission has reorganized and reaffirmed goals and priorities.

Discussion with the BOH Administrative Assistant/Farmer's Market Manager followed concerning the current status of Lunenburg Farmer's Market regulations, including requirements for participation, BOH and BOS oversight, and current exclusions concerning product and participants. The level of participation of AgComs in Farmer's Markets in other communities was considered, and the Lunenburg AgCom's interest in being part of the Farmer's Market management was stated. The Farmer's Market Manager expressed interest in creating guidelines for handling market related complaints and suggested a joint meeting with the BOH. To further inform the public, it was suggested that the Market Manager have copies of the rules at the market and that the rules be posted on the town website. Expanding the numbers of vendors, inviting additional musicians, and advertising were also discussed.

Following the Conservation Commission meeting of May 6, 2014, issues concerning potential damage to agricultural lands from road salt/ice melt runoff were considered. Additional information is to be obtained.

The plaintiff in the "cow complaint" hearing for the Board of Health meeting of May 19, 2014 was unable to attend and the hearing was postponed. A representative from the Mass. Farm Bureau Federation gave a brief overview of the existing farmer's rights in Massachusetts and the passage of the Right to Farm Bylaw affirms our community's placement of high value on agriculture.

The Vice-chairman offered a grant application for which may be useful for the procurement of "Right to Farm Community" street signs, or possible assistance with other agricultural awareness advertising.

Updates on sending letters to local farmers, an AgCom website, recreation of a 4H program, and the AgCom seat vacancy were discussed.

The meeting was opened for public comment and resident Matt Allison suggested the creation of a Community Preservation Commission, as well as finding ways to increase participation on town government, especially by local farmers. The Chairman thanked Mr. Allison, the former liaison from the Planning Board, for his assistance and input over the past year.

The next meeting was scheduled for June 19, 2014 at 7:00 pm at The Ritter Building and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeffrey L. Mendoza